

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1

SECRET

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COUNTRY Polish REPORT NO. [] 25X1

SUBJECT Conditions Aboard Fishing Trawlers DATE DISTR. 20 May 1953

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

- 25X1 1. Polish trawlers [] belong to the government owned trust
25X1 Dalmor. Forty-seven of these trawlers have been observed off the []
25X1 coast and others in the North Sea.
2. Contrary to rumors, none of the crews of these trawlers are military personnel. Some are in uniform, but it is the uniform of the Polish fishery school at Gdynia. This school has a one-year course, with particularly thorough instruction in radio. Three or four of these graduates are aboard each trawler.
3. No interest in anything but fishing has been observed on the part of these trawlers.
4. Each trawler has a commissar, who acts as supply officer, checks the log, and supervises all radio messages sent or received. They have uniforms, sometimes with one or two gold strips on the sleeve. Most of them are unpopular, but the discipline aboard the trawlers is good.
5. Trawler officers receive pay in addition to a share of the catch, while the crew gets only a share of the catch. The captain receives 500 zloty a month with 10 percent of the catch and board.
- 25X1 6. Catches are generally poor, mainly due to the deficiency of coal. On the
25X1 voyage out good Polish coal is used, but once off the [] coast, nothing
25X1 but the small [] coal can be obtained. The trawlers sometimes go to
Soviet harbors []
7. In Soviet harbors passports of the entire crew are collected and returned 24 hours later with permission to land. While in harbor the ship's radio is placed under seal. Before leaving the trawlers are very thoroughly searched.

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